



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
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# JANUARY

## 2020

# News And Views

## Pastoral Perspective



Peace has often been defined as the absence of conflict. That is a wonderful ideal, but not fully possible in a sinful world. Peace can be looked at a bit differently. It can be seen as a state of wholeness in which differences are held in constructive and creative tension. There is still some conflict involved, but it is constructive, not destructive. This wholeness is called Shalom in the Bible. It is this peace that the angels proclaimed on the first Christmas. We are different from one another in this world. Nonetheless, God sent His one and only Son to bring us together in true peace so we can use our differences to build one another up rather than try to tear one another down.

We live in a divided world, and that division runs right through the human heart. Jesus brings the gift of peace to our divided world and hearts. He is God's shalom or peace. Let's look at how this One who is God and yet became a man does this. Firstly, Jesus brings peace to our divided world. Wherever there are people, we tend to choose up sides—nation against nation, race against race, political party against political party. Natural and man-made divisions such as geography, language, culture, education, age, wealth, even religion degenerate into destructive divisions.

The very differences that could enrich life are used as excuses to justify separating into hostile groups and squaring off against one another. I read of an experiment done in a classroom where all blue-eyed children were singled out by the teacher to be discriminated against. It wasn't long before both blue-eyed students and non-blue-eyed students developed a self-consciousness based on this simple and natural difference of eye color. The difference degenerated into destructive division. I wonder how mixed up I would have been in this experiment as I have one blue and one brown eye! But I digress.

Ridiculous, you say. Yes, ridiculous. But so are many of the differences over which we shun one another and exclude one another from community. Jesus brings peace to a divided world. He does not obliterate the differences, but calls us to a wholeness of humanity in which the differences are seen as various gifts of diversity for the good of all rather than things to fight over and hurt one another over. Jesus was swept to the cross by the same forces that work against peace in the world. But as he was lifted up on the cross, he offered to the world a center around which the natural and human-made differences can become richness to be celebrated and shared.

Along with bringing peace to a divided world, Jesus brings peace to divided hearts. The divisions of the world run right through the human heart. We are



## **EPIPHANY BREAKFAST AND SERVICE MONDAY JANUARY 6TH AT 9:30AM**

The Evangelism Board hosts the Breakfast and provides Breakfast Casseroles, Coffee and Juice. Those coming will be encouraged to bring nut breads, coffee cakes or fruit to share as well as nativity scenes to decorate the tables. A sign up sheet is available on the Opportunity Table, so we can be sure to have enough seating and food for everyone.



## **DINER'S CLUB**

The Evangelism Board is pleased and excited to bring back the possibility of reinventing the Diner's Club as it was in the beginning, years ago, by Pastor Carl and Triss Hoppman as well as former members, The Tollefson's. As a side note, if you have a St. Luke's Cook Book, Pat Tollefson was the editor.

So, as it was at that time, please look for the sign-up sheet in the Narthex and sign up if you would like to be a part of this wonderful way of spending special time with members of our Congregation by

our own worst enemies in this regard. We are often at war within ourselves. We need peace within. Insecurities, anxieties, uncertainties, and so much more seem to plague us and tear us apart inside. It is because of this inner conflict that I suppose persons are so quick to choose up sides over differences. The inner conflict is projected outward, and the outward conflict resonates with the inner battle. Choosing up sides over differences is a way of trying to deal with the inner conflict, a way of trying to feel whole by tearing others apart. So much persecution and oppression happens because folks are not able to deal constructively with their inner conflicts and so try to find someone or some group to put down so they can feel better about themselves. The inner conflict is ignored or denied.

Jesus helps us deal with the inner conflict. The message of his birth, life, death and resurrection is that we are made whole in him and given peace. We do not have to engage in the awful charade of self-justification, of dealing with the inner divisions by projecting them outward. Jesus helps bring the inner civil war to an end. He gives us a center around which to integrate our lives. He who is himself peace, brings peace to us.

Do you need this gift of peace today? Do you struggle within yourself and with others? Hear Jesus say to you now: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you." (John 14:27) "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7).

Spreading, Serving and Sharing with You,  
Pastor Carl

sharing a meal or other activity in some way. The sign-up sheet will include names, phone numbers and E-Mail addresses as well as anyone needing a ride.

The sign-up sheet will be available through Sunday, January 26, 2020, for anyone that would like to participate. Groups will then be established and notices sent out as to whom, is in each group, and the name of the person or persons who would make the plans for the first time. The same group will remain for 3 months with others making the plans. Others will be invited to join them, especially those new to our Congregation, and hopefully will be able to meet each month starting in February or whenever is convenient.

Please keep in mind – you may indicate that you would like to be on a call only list, rather than committed to a certain time. As noted in the past, after worship is a popular time as well as 1:00 pm lunches during the week to accommodate members of the Congregation but after a group is established it will be known what is best – any expense will be paid by the member of the group.

If you have any questions or concerns please call Carol Carney -916-335-0847



## **CRAB FEED MARCH 7, 2020 TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE NOW!**

Contact Holly Hoppman or call our church office for tickets! Ticket prices are staying the same at \$45 for adults and \$15 for youth. This year's theme is SUPER HEROES!! So, grab your capes and fly on by! If you are interested in helping with the Crab Feed

this year, please let Holly know! We'd love to have you join us for our next planning meeting, Sunday, January 12th.



The Annual Christmas Luncheon was attended by about 40 people on Saturday, December 13th. We all enjoyed a delicious meal of ham, macaroni and cheese, scalloped potatoes, green bean casserole, green salad, cranberry salad, Waldorf salad, bread, cupcakes (made by Rochelle and her kids) and cookies. A short meeting occurred with the election of the following board member: Marlene Kiser, President, Judy Saxby, Vice-President, Triss Hoppman, Treasure, and Gabby Cox, Secretary. Judy Saxby provided the devotional and some interesting Christmas facts. Karen Linfor lead the group in singing a few Christmas carols followed by the very popular gift exchange event. A few presents may their rounds to a few people!! All in all, we all have a very fun time. Thank you to all who attended and made the afternoon fun.

Our mission support for the month was the collection for the Christmas Families. Many thanks to everyone in the church who help support this important mission.

Please mark you calendars for the next and first meeting of the 2020 year on February 8, 2020. Lunch will be a Potluck and the Mission Support will be for Union Gospel Mission. Needed is adult scarves, hats, gloves, socks & underwear. New/gently used towels and blankets.

Yours in Christ,  
Marlene Kiser  
WELCA President

## Let us welcome our 2020 Council Members & Board Chairs!

Many thanks to all of you for serving our congregation in such crucial ways.

### **NEW**

Karen Linfor	Council Secretary
Cathy Davis & Linda Duffek	Community Concerns
Shirley Prouty	Worship & Music
Laura Tice	Education
Pauline Arndt	Evangelism
Paul Maki	Finance Board
Clarence Korhonen	Property Board

### **Continuing Service**

Carolyn Andrews	President
Christina	Vice President
Hisamoto	
Bob Behr	Treasurer
Marlene Kiser	W-ELCA President
Samantha	Youth Board
Basquez	

Thanks to all those who serve as members of the various boards.



SLY raised \$615.42 thanks to your generous donations from Pumpkin bread and calendar sales. Thank you for all the support!

SLY had a Christmas party on December 8th where we visited, exchanged gifts, and brainstormed future fundraising events. That being said, Youth is hoping to host a Spring Fling of sorts in late March, so please be on the lookout for more info as it becomes available, and Save the Date for March 28th!

As some of you may have heard, this is Ms. Samantha and Ms. Laura's last year as Youth Leaders. Amber Mansfield will be taking our post in January 2021. We are looking forward to working with Amber this coming year and helping her move into this position next Winter. Please help us to support Amber in this transition by offering her encouragement and prayers.

Thank you again to all who continue to support our group through donation and prayer! We appreciate all of you. Happy New Year! We cannot wait for another year of fun events and fellowship!

**THANKS**  
— from the —  
**HEART**



# Y o u t h P u m p k i n B r e a d B a k i n g





Community Concerns has just concluded our Christmas families! We had 5 families this year, and on December 22nd we wrapped all of the gifts and on the 23rd, the families came and picked them up. If it were not for you, St. Luke's congregation, these families would do without. God Bless us all! Merry Christmas!

Faith Thomas, chair



# CALLING ALL SUPER HEROES!

Help us defeat Lord Dungeness and his six legged crustaceans ...





# January Birthdays

Kathryn Felgenhauer	January 02
Darnell Osako	January 02
Esther Battyany	January 03
Craig Eckels	January 03
Jacob Kiser	January 03
Nick Moser	January 05
Pat Hamilton	January 06
Merle Zbrog	January 07
Lauren Orcutt	January 08
Sandra Mansfield	January 09
Karen Linfor	January 10
Deanna Dockter Jr.	January 13
Walter Arndt	January 16
Kayla King	January 16
Dennis Fischer	January 19
Stella Loveless	January 24
George Dorr	January 26
Jarrold Rowland	January 27
Amy Franklin	January 29
Bernie Johansen	January 30
Kirsten Ireton	January 31

## Community Events at St. Luke's

*Key: SH=Schultz Hall MP=Multipurpose*

January 11	Memorial for John Johnsen
January 18	Kiwanis (SH)
January 25	Memorial for Stella Loveless
Sundays	4 pm Sacramento Youth Band (SH) 7 pm Narcotics Anonymous (MP)
Mondays	7 pm New Path AA (RM 4)
2nd & 4th Mondays	7 pm Girl Scouts (MP)
Wednesdays	6 pm Girls Scouts (MP) 7 pm New Path AA (RM 4)
Fridays	7 pm New Path AA (RM 4)
3rd Fridays	7 pm Girl Scouts (MP)
Saturdays	12 pm Narcotics Anonymous (MP)



Jan 5	<i>Needed</i>
Jan 12	<i>Needed</i>
Jan 19	<i>Needed</i>
Jan 26	<b>Karen Linfor</b> In memory of Tracy Light



## DEATHS IN OUR CONGREGATION

John Johnsen died and passed into Jesus' loving arms the morning of December 12th. Please give thanks for his caring life among us and the new life he has with Jesus for eternity. Please pray for Thelma and the family that they are held in the Lord's tender loving care as they grieve.

A memorial service for John Johnsen will be held at St. Luke's on Saturday, January 11 at 11 a.m. Lunch will be served in Schultz Hall following the service.

Please continue to pray for Thelma and Tammy and the whole family as they go through the holidays, that the Lord holds them in His tender love.



Stella Loveless died and was made whole in the heavenly kingdom by her Lord Thursday, December 19th. Please give thanks for her life among us and the new life she is rejoicing in now for eternity with Jesus. Services will be held at St. Luke's on Saturday, January 25 at 1 p.m. A meal, catered by the family, will be served in Schultz Hall following the service.



# FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

November 2019

## Comments:

- a. After a poor October, the November's offerings were slightly above the monthly Budget and last year's November's offering, which is good.
- b. As the figures show, the Year-to-Date figures are "on" Budget and essentially the same as last year.
- c. To assist the Sunday Counters and the Financial Secretary, please –
  - For a special contribution, clearly mark how the contribution is to be used.
  - Use numbered envelopes, when feasible.
  - If you need numbered envelopes, either see me or drop a note in the offering.
  - When using pew envelopes, please write legibly.
- d. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Jack Fenske  
 St. Luke's Financial Secretary  
 916-714-3626  
[LRFenske@comcast.net](mailto:LRFenske@comcast.net)

General Fund (Only) Contributions		
Data	This Month	Year to Date
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$15,897	\$193,072
<b>Compared to Budget</b>	\$742	\$677
	4.9%	0.4%
<b>Compared to 2018</b>	\$1,109	\$5,198
	7.5%	2.8%
No. of Contributors		
<b>2019</b> (Current Year)	75	75 avg.
<b>2018</b> (Last Year)	78	84 avg.
Other Special Gifts		
Sunday School		\$6
Flowers		\$100
Poinsettias		\$220
Thank Offering (W-ELCA)		\$1,016

*Note: Plus values are good; minus values are not.*



# WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

## Altar Care

(8:15 a.m.) Cheryl Franklin

(10:30 a.m.)

Jan 5 Karen Linfor, Kelly Boyer

Jan 12 Ben Briel

Jan 19 Jennifer Connell, Rachel Kiser

Jan 26 Carol Carney

## Communion Servers

Jan 5 Bob Behr, Kelly Boyer,  
Linda Duffek

Jan 19 Betty Englund, Kirsten Ireton,  
Marlene Kiser

## Counters

Jan 5 Debi Lentsch, Connie Reule

Jan 12 John Orcutt, Triss Hoppman

Jan 19 Betty Englund, Barbara Manlapig

Jan 26 Holly Hoppman, Marlene Kiser

Debi Lentsch, Connie Reule

## Greeters

Jan 5 *Needed*

Jan 12 *Needed*

Jan 19 *Needed*

Jan 26 Ralph & Merle Zbrog

## Prayer Leaders

Jan 5 Karen Linfor

Jan 12 Cathy Davis

Jan 19 Al Moser

Jan 26 Judy Saxby

## Psalm Leaders

Jan 5 Sierra Etchison

Jan 12 Aiyana Tice

Jan 19 Lucy Orcutt

Jan 26 Lauren Richey

## Head Ushers

8:15 a.m. Ron Franklin

10:30 a.m. Kelly Boyer

## Readers (8:15 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.)

Jan 5 Sarah Madison; Gail Weber

Jan 12 Phil Petersen; Ralph Zbrog

Jan 19 Ron Webb; Bob Behr

Jan 26 Christiana Wilson; Kelly Boyer

## Refreshments

Jan 5 Ed & Kirsten Ireton

Jan 12 Marc & Alison Thomas

Jan 19 Paul Maki & Chona Sison

Jan 26 Kelly Boyer & Lois Sherrets

## Visitors' Gifts

Jan 5 Gail Weber

Jan 12 Michele Sondrini

Jan 19 Pat Hamilton

Jan 26 Carole Vance

## Acolytes

Jan 5 Lauren Richey

Jan 12 Noella Sondrini, Anthony Basquez

Jan 19 Claire Kerian, Elizabeth Wilson

Jan 26 Lucy Orcutt, Kimiya Ricciardi

## Welcome Leaders

Jan 5 Pat Webb

Jan 12 Gail Weber

Jan 19 Al Moser

Jan 26 Chet Madison

## Sunday School Teachers

Jan 5 Lauren Orcutt, Christina Hisamoto, Peggy Moser

Jan 12 Laura Tice, Samantha Basquez, Peggy Moser

Jan 19 Alison Thomas, Lajuan Andrews, Peggy Moser

Jan 26 Samantha Basquez, Laura Tice, Peggy Moser



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
7595 Center Parkway  
Sacramento, CA 95823

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Return Service Requested

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*Epiphany* Service &  
Breakfast

January 6, 2020  
at 9:30 a.m.

Schultz Hall